

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A system for preventing deformation of a sail mounted on a reel, comprising:

means (14; 20) for providing an additional volume in a central part of a reel; and

a sail wound around the reel and being non-deformable in compression around the reel and non-deformable in compression parallel to the sail's luff, said sail comprising a fabric with transverse and longitudinal fibers (18, 18') resistive to compression and local buckling, the compression resistive longitudinal fibers being parallel to a luff of said sail and being oriented parallel to an axis of said reel along a whole length of said sail, said transverse and longitudinal fibers being incorporated between two films (17, 17'), the fibers and films being bonded.

2. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said films (17, 17') comprise ethylene glycol polyterephthalate.

3. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, comprises a biconical housing with two frustoconical parts.

4. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sail comprises slats (16) stitched into it, parallel to its luff.

5. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reel is protected by a fairing (22) forming an aerofoil.

6. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said fairing (22) is one of cylindrical, conical and biconical shape.

7. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 5, wherein said fairing (22) comprises, on its inside, a protruding part in the form of a spoiler (23) which presses against the sail (21).

8. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said fairing (22) comprises, on its inside, a protruding part in the form of a spoiler (23) which presses against the sail (21).

9. (currently amended) A system for preventing deformation of a sail that is mounted on a reel, the system comprising:

means for providing an additional volume in a central part of a reel; and

a sail wound on the reel and comprising a fabric with two films and compression resistant transverse and longitudinal fibers between and bonded to said two films, said compression resistant longitudinal fibers being parallel to a luff of said

sail and being oriented parallel to an axis of said reel along a whole length of said sail, and said compression resistant transverse fibers being transverse to the luff, said compression resistant transverse and longitudinal fibers being provided beneath an entire surface of said sail.

10. (previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 9, wherein said sail is made from a single piece of said fabric.